LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATIVE
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# THE 1987 NOVA SCOTIA MOOSE SEASON

*Art Patton*

A second moose season in Inverness and Victoria Counties for 200 licensees was held in 1987.

During the five day season successful hunters reported 2983 person-hours of hunting for an average of 18.2 hours per hunter or per moose taken. Since the average party size reported was 3.89 hunters per license we can calculate approximately 14,159.5 person-hours of hunting recreation provided by this five day hunt. The harvest of 164 moose resulted in about 86 recreation hours per moose havested.

The harvest consisted of 132 males and 32 females. The age component of the harvest is shown in Table 1 by sex for each age class.

Although only nine of the 164 successful hunters said they selected against calves there were only 16 calves in the total kill. Calves would be the largest single age class in the population and should have been harvested much more heavily. The age ratios shown suggests a relatively young herd but the hunter success and sex ratio suggests that hunting is relatively insignificant as a mortality factor in this population.

Table 2 shows the average field dressed weight of moose in each age class. Table 3 show antler development among males by age class.

Table 4 indicates the hours and expenditures reported by hunters registering a moose at the check stations.

Table 5 gives an indication of the relative frequency of hunting techniques and the numbers of persons accompanying licensed hunters.

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Table 1. *Moose kill, sex and age. Nova Scotia 1987.*

| Age | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Calf | 11 | 5 |
| Yearling | 31 | 6 |
| 2.5 | 34 | 6 |
| 3.5 | 21 | 5 |
| 4.5 | 11 | 3 |
| 5.5-6.5 | 7 | 2 |
| 7.5-8.5 | 4 | 0 |
| 9.5-10.5 | 2 | 2 |
| 11.5-13.5 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.5-16.5 | 0 | 0 |

Table 2. *Moose, average weight by age class, Nova Scotia 1987.*

| Age | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Calf | 293.91 | 211.40 |
| Yearling | 530.90 | 485.33 |
| 2.5 | 719.59 | 580.00 |
| 3.5 | 42.243 | 616.20 |
| 4.5 | 865.45 | 671.67 |
| 5.5-6.5 | 895.29 | 513.50 |
| 7.5-8.5 | 777.50 | 0.00 |
| 9.5-10.5 | 857.50 | 534.00 |

Table 3. *Antler development by age class of male moose. Nova Scotia 1987.* 89-06032/

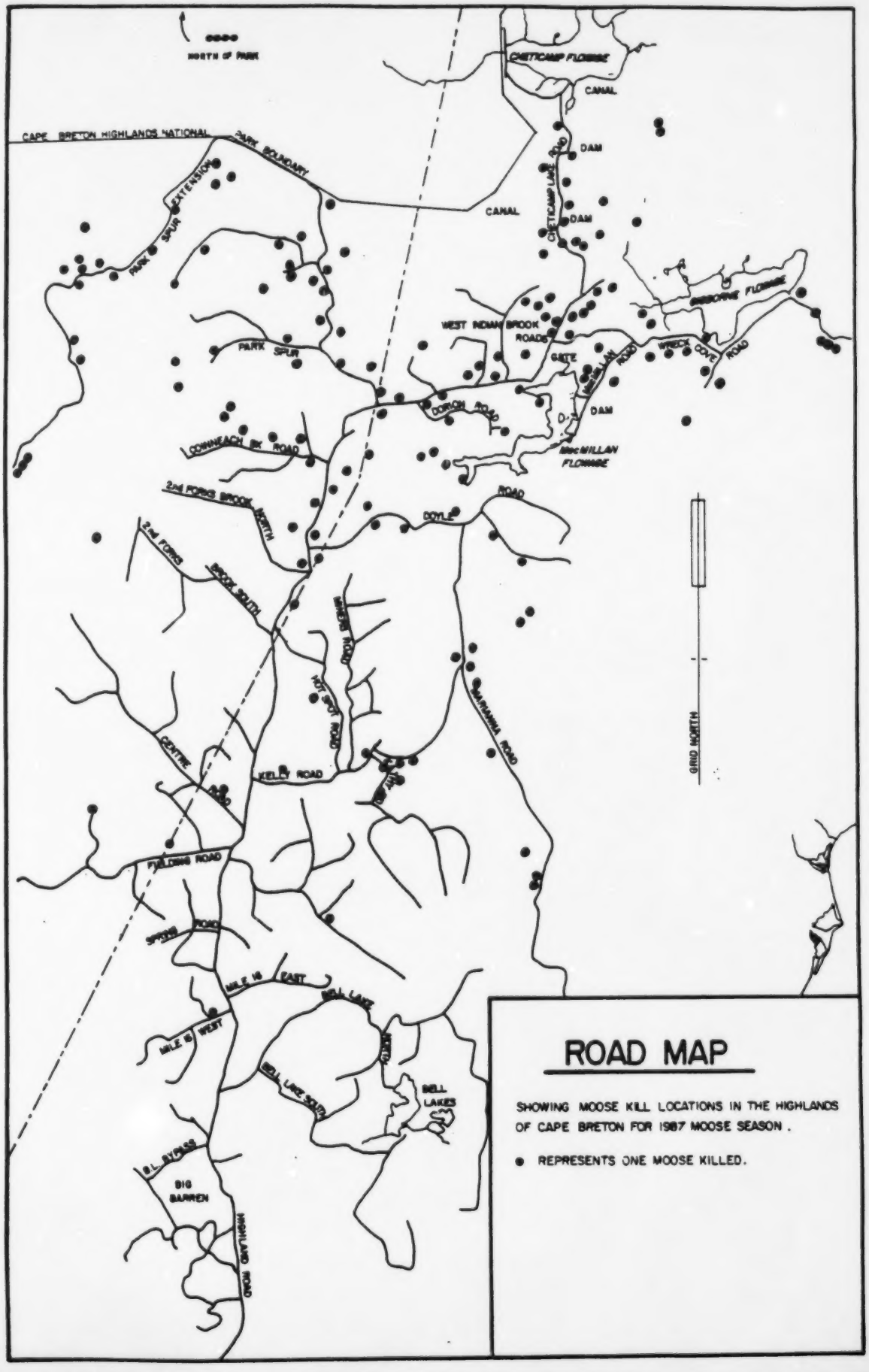
| Age | Number in Age Class | Total Area of Palms | Beam Diam. (mm) | Points | Spread |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calf | 11 | 0.00 | | | |
| Yearling | 31 | 70.56 | 35.00 | 6.90 | 22.47 |
| 2.5 | 34 | 252.10 | 50.21 | 13.91 | 37.09 |
| 3.5 | 21 | 418.90 | 55.24 | 17.24 | 44.76 |
| 4.5 | 11 | 577.48 | 61.91 | 19.91 | 50.09 |
| 5.0 | 7 | 450.61 | 54.43 | 20.83 | 59.80 |
| 7.0 | 4 | 356.81 | 55.50 | 18.33 | 62.67 |
| 9.0 | 2 | 766.75 | 60.50 | 23.50 | 51.50 |
| 11.0 | 0 | | | | |
| 14.0 | 0 | | | | |

Table 4. *Weight, hours hunted and expenses: Totals and averages per moose taken. Nova Scotia 1987.*

| Sex | Count | Weight (Kg) | Weight (Kg) /Moose | Hours Hunted | Hours /Moose | Expenses (dollars) | Expenses /Moose |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Females | 30 | 6 246 | 208.18 | 611.25 | 20.38 | 14,195 | 473.17 |
| Males | 134 | 42 271 | 315.46 | 2,372.25 | 17.70 | 81,448 | 607.82 |
| Totals | 164 | 48 517 | 295.84 | 2,983.50 | 18.19 | 95,643 | 583.19 |

Table 5. *Hunting method at first sighting of moose by successful hunters. Number of hunters and party size for each method. Nova Scotia 1987.*

| Hunting Method | Licensed Hunters | Party Size | Total Participants |
|---|---|---|---|
| Still Hunt | 72 | 3.54 | 255 |
| Vehicle | 83 | 4.13 | 343 |
| Calling | 8 | 4.50 | 36 |
| Total | 163 | 3.89 | 634 |

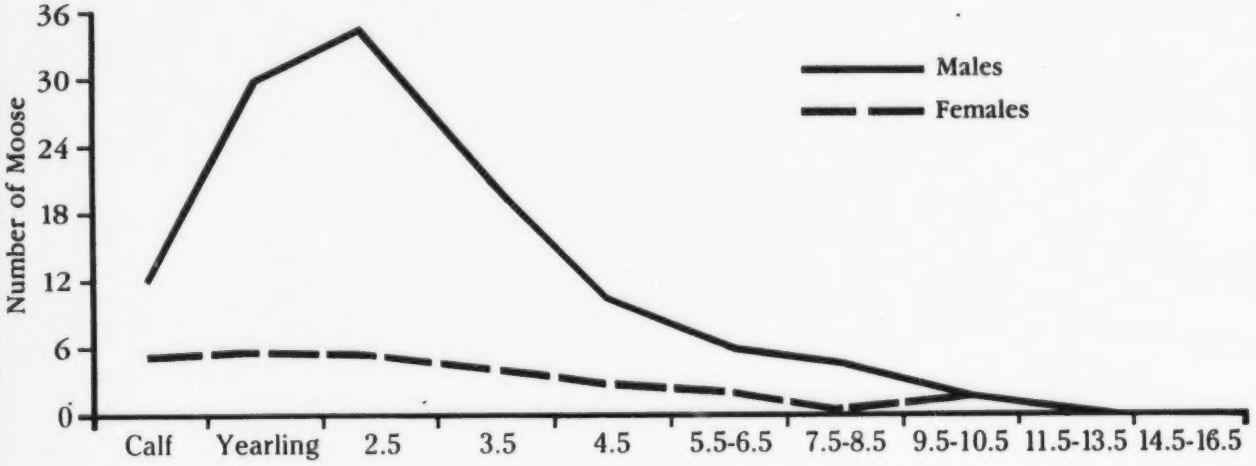



# ROAD MAP

SHOWING MOOSE KILL LOCATIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS OF CAPE BRETON FOR 1987 MOOSE SEASON.

● REPRESENTS ONE MOOSE KILLED.

Figure 2. *Moose kill by sex and age. Nova Scotia 1987*



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Please Note: Correction Table 2 - 3½ year old males should read 842.24 lbs not 42.243 lbs.